

**Minutes of the
DAVENPORT-ROCK ISLAND-MOLINE, IOWA-ILLINOIS
URBANIZED AREA
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 12:00 Noon
Third Floor Conference Room 300
Bi-State Regional Commission
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

Policy Members Present

Ray Ambrose	Davenport City Council
Jim Bohnsack	Rock Island County Board Chair
Sam Shea	Iowa Department of Transportation - Davenport
Tom Sunderbruch	Scott County Board of Supervisors
John Thodos	Mayor, City of East Moline
Kris Tobin	Illinois Department of Transportation -Dixon
Don Welvaert	Mayor, City of Moline
Bob Wilson	President, Village of Port Byron

Others Present

Steve Brandau	Henry County
Colleen Gillaspie	Henry County
Mark Hunt	Bi-State Regional Commission
Tom Kelso	Illinois Department of Transportation-Springfield
John Lowery	Project NOW/RICSC
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Lalit Patel	Bi-State Regional Commission
Meghan Overton	Bi-State Regional Commission
Daya Snapp	Bi-State Regional Commission
Scott Stephenson	McClure Engineering
Jeff Uddin	McClure Engineering
Chelsey Waterman	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of the Minutes of the December 15, 2009 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting. Mr. Sunderbruch asked for approval of the December 15, 2009 Transportation Policy Committee minutes. Mr. Ambrose motioned to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Tobin seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. Consideration of Iowa Quad Cities Candidate Surface Transportation Program (STP) Projects and Evaluation Process. Mr. Patel reviewed the Surface Transportation Program Evaluation Process (STP). The quantitative evaluation process uses Level of Service, Accidents, and Physical Condition criteria, weighted equally with 150 points for each category, to score and rank projects. There are approximately \$6.1 million in funds to program. Two projects were submitted for consideration by the City of Davenport: 67th Street (Eastern Avenue to Jersey Ridge Road) and Forest Grove Drive (Utica Ridge Road to Eagle Ridge Road). Mr. Patel provided information on the ranking with special considerations. The 67th Street project scored 193.80 points, and the Forest Grove Drive scored 182.58 points. Both projects were approved by the Technical Committee for special considerations of a sidewalk on one side and a multipurpose trail on the other.

The total funds available to program through FFY2011 is estimated at \$6,163,224. The Technical Committee recommended funding 67th Street at 80% STP Funds, amounting to \$3,024,000, and providing the balance of funds to Forest Grove Drive, amounting to \$3,139,224. Mr. Ambrose motioned to accept the Technical Committee recommendation as presented, and Mayor Thodos seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the projects were awarded STP funds.

3. Consideration of Proposed Transfer of Iowa Road Use Tax Funds to Iowa State Patrol. Ms. McCullough directed Committee members to their agenda packets containing a proposed letter opposing the transfer of funds from the Iowa Road Use Tax Fund to the Iowa State Patrol. Mr. Ambrose motioned to send the letter to Iowa legislators as written opposing the transfer of funds. Mr. Bohnsack seconded the motion, and it carried. The letter would be sent today with a carbon copy going to the Director of the Iowa Department of Transportation, Nancy Richardson.
4. Consideration of Federal Functional Classification Designation. A request was received from the Iowa Department of Transportation to revise Jefferson Street within the City of Buffalo from a minor arterial to an urban collector in order to match the classification of the roadway outside the Urban Area Boundary. A proposed resolution was enclosed in Committee members' agenda packets. Mr. Ambrose motioned to approve the revision and supporting resolution. Mayor Welvaert seconded the motion, and it carried. The resolution will be conveyed to the Iowa Department of Transportation.
5. Status of Long Range Transportation Plan Update – Socio-Economic Data Development, Plan Goals/Objectives Development and Public Information Kick-Off Meetings. Ms. McCullough, Ms. Snapp, and Mr. Hunt presented on the status of the Long Range Transportation Plan update. Ms. McCullough provided a status of efforts to date from MPO boundary changes one year ago to the recent meeting with resource agencies for early environmental consultation and coordination. A project timeline was included in the agenda packet. She overviewed the proposed Table of Contents, including modifications to address a freight transportation and intermodal network chapter, passenger transportation network, and non-motorized transportation network. The Long Range Transportation Plan will conclude with a chapter entitled "Proposed Transportation System for Sustainability." The appendix will summarize public participation and model documentation as well as include a congestion management process. Ms. McCullough directed Technical Committee members to the agenda packet to suggest updates to the goals and objectives. She asked Policy Committee members to review the information for any additional comments.

Ms. Snapp reviewed base year 2006 data collection efforts to date. Staff is checking the accuracy of employment data by first checking businesses with ≥ 75 employees. Second, staff checked businesses with several locations and known to have many (≥ 75) employees. Several places of employment are being questioned in order to accurately portray their employment data and geographic location.

These are usually larger employers (for example, John Deere, R.I. Arsenal, Genesis, etc.) where they have multiple locations. Letters have been sent to these employers. Once responses have been received, staff will go back through the data to make the adjustments. Following this data verification process, employment will be parsed by NAICS codes as retail, industrial, and other and retrieved by traffic analysis zone (TAZ) to enable staff to meet with communities and discuss future socio-economic forecasts by TAZ. It is anticipated this will occur by mid-February.

Simultaneously, staff is working on geo-referencing the roadway network. The Iowa Quad Cities network, geography, and data is being clipped from the Iowa statewide travel model network. The

Illinois Quad Cities network will be based on centerline files from Bi-State Regional Commission and data from the existing travel model network.

Mr. Hunt outlined methodology used to create population projections. Projections were provided in ranges for the horizon year-2040. A regional cap will be recommended for consideration after meeting with the communities on individual traffic analysis zone (TAZ) allocation of population and employment for the horizon year-2040. Mr. Hunt provided four population forecasts, one based on average growth demonstrated by the TAZs and compounded over the time horizon. This figure amounted to 308,984. A second forecast examined the fastest growing TAZs minus outliers and applied this rate over the time horizon. This forecast predicted 725,672 by 2040. A third forecast examined declining or negative growth trends by TAZs. Using a declining trend, this forecast amounted to 158,507 by 2040. A fourth forecast utilized a best fit methodology or equidistant between the high and low forecast, amounting to 517,328. These ranges will be used to “cap” the regional estimates for population. A similar technique will be used to forecast employment when the total employment is determined for the base year.

Ms. McCullough concluded by inviting the Policy Committee to two public input forums being scheduled for early February as a kick-off to the plan development. A media release accompanied by an input form was sent to the Regional Transportation Advisory Group as part of the Technical Committee meeting notice and was enclosed in Committee members’ packets. Another media release was planned to be sent in addition, and information is posted on the Bi-State Regional Commission website. A meeting was held to discuss the plan progress with Iowa Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration representatives.

6. Status Reports. Ms. McCullough briefed Policy Committee members on a number of issues.

- Passenger Rail. The Iowa and Illinois Departments of Transportation are waiting for a 1st quarter ARRA award announcement on the federal High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) discretionary grant program (ARRA).
- Air Quality. There have been no exceedences of ozone in 2009 in the Quad Cities. There were five exceedences of the fine particulate standard in Scott County this calendar year. Data is being validated but it appears the Quad Cities will be in attainment. There were elevated levels of fine particulates in early September, late November, and late December. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is underway with a review of the ozone standard based on new scientific research. An official notice published in the Federal Register came out earlier in the month. Area officials have been invited and encouraged to participate in the Bi-State Region Clean Air Partnership. The IADOT approved the Bi-State Regional Commission ICAAP application for \$40,000 to continue public education efforts. An application to the Illinois Department of Transportation for special research funds to further the emission reduction efforts in the Bi-State Region is pending. Policy Committee members discussed issuing a letter to USEPA from the Policy Committee for consideration of balancing the health based conclusions with the economic conditions.
- American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Projects. There were no significant changes since the December meeting report. Iowa DOT has conducted a call for Stimulus II projects in anticipation of a new program. Using the same Iowa Quad Cities target, a version of the bill calls for 50% of all highway funds to be under contract in 90 days. With changes in the Senate, it is

uncertain whether the bill will pass or not. Illinois is waiting on more definitive action prior to calling for projects.

- Transportation Reauthorization SAFETEA-LU expired on October 1st. Congress passed a subsequent extension through February 2010. There has been no other activity.
- Bridge Coordination. Closure of the Moline viaduct to the Arsenal was noted as beginning in January 2010 and concluding in October 2010.

7. Public Comments. No public comments were made.
8. Other Business. A handout was distributed at the meeting with Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) administrative modifications. There were three projects from East Moline and one other from River Bend Transit. No action was required.
9. Adjournment. Mr. Ambrose motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mayor Thodos. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.